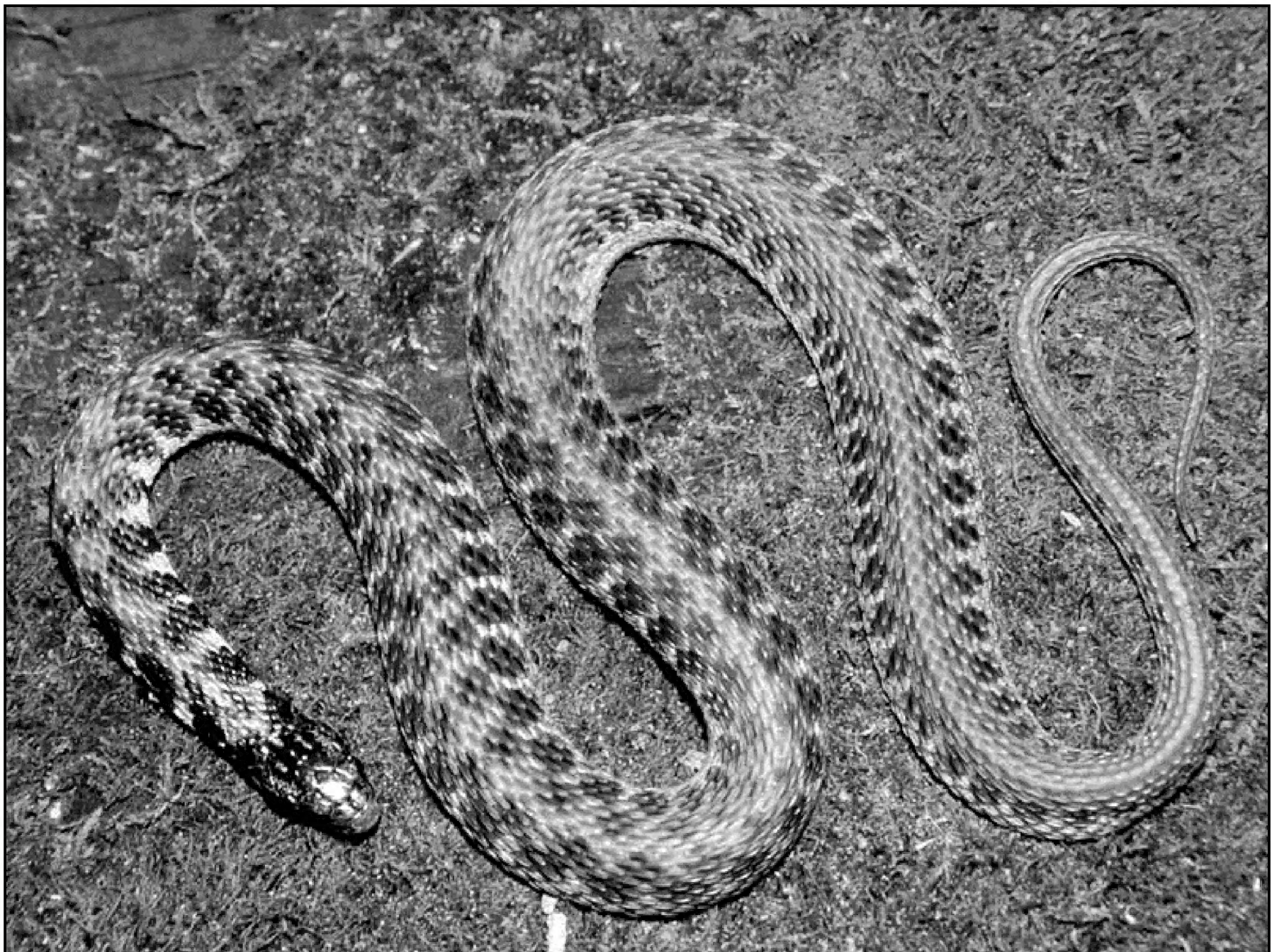

BULLETIN

of the

Chicago Herpetological Society



Volume 35, Number 6
June 2000



BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Cover: Kirtland's snake, *Clonophis kirtlandii*, from Cook County, Illinois. Photograph by Stephen L. Barten, D.V.M.

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Kirtland's Snake in Edison Park: An Historical Vignette

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Woodside, CA 94062

Kirtland's snake, *Clonophis kirtlandii* (Kennicott), is one of two herpetological taxa with type localities within the Chicago Area as defined by Schmidt and Necker (1935), Pope (1944) and Edgren and Stille (1948). The other, the Chicago garter snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis semifasciatus* (Cope), seems to be in less than sound taxonomic position. However, Kirtland's snake is an unquestionably valid species that was described from specimens collected by Robert Kennicott in northern Illinois. Conant (1943) restricted the type locality to West Northfield, Cook County, Illinois. No West Northfield exists as a political entity at present; the locality likely represented the Kennicott family estate, now The Grove National Historic Landmark in Glenview, Illinois.

This beautiful, retiring little snake was, during the 1940s and 1950s when I was working in herpetology in the Chicago Area, one of the rarest members of the local snake fauna. Only Graham's crayfish snake, *Regina grahamii* (Baird and Girard) was less frequently encountered. It was of particular interest, therefore, when a rumor passed through the membership of the old Chicago Herpetologists' Club, that someone had captured a Kirtland's water snake (as it was then known) in a vacant lot at the corner of School Street and Odell Avenue in Edison Park on the northwest border of Chicago. Edison Park had originally been a suburb of the city but was incorporated into Chicago as the city expanded. At this writing I cannot recall exactly when this rumor began to circulate, but it was apparently during the Second World War (1942 or 1943).

Needless to say, as soon as possible after hearing the rumor, actually while I was on leave from the army, I headed for the corner of School Street and Odell and began turning everything that looked like suitable cover for small snakes. The School-Odell lot was a disappointment, but my efforts were rewarded at a nearby lot at School and Osceola. Those familiar with that area of Chicago will know that the city planners had named a number of north-south streets in that area with names that begin with the letter O. At the time of this visit the area was largely wet grassland with paved roads cut through

and a scattering of houses. The Kirtland's snake I captured was small, eight or ten inches in length, and exhibited the characteristic body-flattening behavior of *C. kirtlandii*. It was hidden under a piece of roofing paper. The preserved specimen was donated to the Chicago Academy of Sciences when I left Chicago in 1960. It is catalogue number CAS 18615, collected 12 May 1944, but erroneously labeled both in my own catalogue and by the Academy as School and Odell.

A number of the other younger herpetologists also visited the area and several other specimens were reported taken. I am reasonably sure that the Stille collection also contained one or more specimens from Edison Park, but these apparently never reached the Academy when Stille left Chicago, also about 1960. During my years in Chicago I only had one other Kirtland's snake, which was captured by a University of Chicago graduate student in Pioneer Woods, part of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and given to me for preservation and donation to the Academy; she and two young delivered before preservation should also be in the Academy collection, but may be lost.

As I recall, I returned sporadically to the area of O-streets while a student at Northwestern during the late 1940s and early 1950s, but no snakes were in evidence. From 1952 to 1960, however, my wife and I rented an apartment on Olcott Avenue just north of Touhy Avenue. By this time the area was completely built up with single-family dwellings, two-flats and a few small apartment buildings. The population of Kirtland's snakes was apparently wiped out.

In her biographical sketch of the Mintons, Margaret Stewart (2000) quotes Sherman as saying that the major problem in herpetology today is: "Controlling human population growth. Habitats are being wiped out at such a rapid rate that soon there will be no creatures and habitats to study." Kirtland's snake in Edison Park is a case in point. It is extremely unlikely that anyone set out to destroy this population, and I doubt that any but a few naturalists were even aware of its existence, but *Clonophis kirtlandii* was certainly extirpated.

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**Book Review: *Anfibios y Reptiles de las Serranías del Distrito Federal, México*
by Zeferino Uribe-Peña, Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista and Gustavo Casas Andreu
Cuadernos 32, Instituto de Biología, UNAM. A.P. 70-233, 04510 México, D.F., México.
In Spanish. 119 pp., 26 figs. (14 in color). \$22 postage paid.**

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This is the second recent herpetological contribution in the excellent Cuadernos series of scholarly natural history booklets published by the Instituto de Biología of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. It follows the 1994 Cuadernos 23 *Manual de Claves Ilustradas de los Anfibios y Reptiles de la Región de Chamela, Jalisco, México* by Aurelio Ramírez Bautista, a co-author of the present volume.

The herpetofauna of concern in this volume occurs in the mountains bordering Distrito Federal on the south, southeast and southwest, including the Sierra de las Cruces, Sierra del Ajusco, and Sierra Nevada. Those sierras reach altitudes as high as 5000 m, but the herps occurring there, and covered in this review, range from 2600 to 4200 m. The entire area is, or was, forested with oaks, pines and firs. This is the mountainous area of the internal drainage Valley of Mexico, and as such it has a herpetofauna quite distinctive from that of surrounding mountains with their different drainage systems. The fauna also lacks the species limited to the floor of the Valley, such as *Ambystoma mexicanum*, *Rana tlaloci* and *Kinosternon h. hirtipes*.

Nevertheless the herpetofauna is surprisingly diverse, embracing 44 species treated in the present volume. They include three ambystomatid salamanders, five plethodontid salamanders, two ranid frogs, four hylid frogs, ten phrynosomatid lizards, three anguid lizards, one skink, one typhlopoid snake, twelve colubrid snakes and three crotaline snakes.

The bulk of the book (68 pp.) is devoted to a quite detailed review of the characteristics, distribution, habitat and habits of each of the 32 species personally studied by the authors and for which voucher specimens are cited in an appendix. Twelve species of the total of 44 listed for the area are not treated in this section, for lack of adequate material, although they have been reliably recorded in the literature: *Ambystoma rivulare*, *Rana spectabilis*, *Hyla arenicolor*, *H. bistincta*, *Sceloporus anahuacus*, *S. palaciosi*, *S. s. scalaris*, *S. s. spinosus*, *Abronia deppei*, *Barisia rudicollis*, *Ramphotyphlops braminus*, and *Thamnophis c. cyrtopsis*.

The species receiving full treatment are *Ambystoma altamiranoi*, *A. zempoalaense*, *Pseudoeurycea altamontana*, *P. belli*, *P. c. cephalica*, *P. leprosa*, *Chiropterotriton chirotetus*, *Rana montezumae*, *Hyla eximia*, *H. plicata*, *Phrynosoma o. orbiculare*, *Sceloporus aeneus*, *S. bicanthalis*, *S. grammicus microlepidotus*, *S. m. mucronatus*, *S. t. torquatus*, *Barisia i. imbricata*, *Eumeces copei*, *Conopsis biserialis*, *C. n. nasus*, *Diadophis punctatus dugesi*, *Pituophis d. deppei*, *Rhadinaea laureata*, *Salvadora bairdi*, *Storeria storerioides*, *Thamnophis e. eques*, *T. m. melanogaster*, *T. scaliger*, *Toluca*

l. lineata, *Crotalus molossus nigrescens*, *C. t. triseriatus* and *Sistrurus ravus*.

Separate tables for the salamanders, anurans and lizards summarize the morphological characteristics, food and reproductive data on each species. A similar table summarizes the morphological characteristics of each species of snake, but there is no tabular summary of food and reproductive data for those species, although that information is given in the separate species accounts. A single table summarizes reproductive data for *Storeria storerioides*.

Line drawings of each species of salamanders, anurans and lizards accompany those accounts, and color plates embellish the snake accounts.

Following the species accounts are seven pages of rather elaborate keys to all 44 species occurring in the area concerned.

A brief, interesting account follows, comparing the diversity of this montane herpetofauna with five others recorded in the literature; they total about the same. However, it is noted that, however well known the present area is known, surprising uncertainties remain. Thirteen species are listed that numerous authors have stated occur in montane Valle de México, but for which no voucher specimens are available. Furthermore it is noted that the taxonomy of the *Rana pipiens*, *R. montezumae* and *Sceloporus grammicus* complexes is not yet secure and may well involve more species than are now recognized. Even *Thamnophis* needs review.

A discussion section terminates the text, except for acknowledgments, the literature cited, index and appendix of voucher specimens examined. The discussion focuses on distribution, habitats and habits, and includes tables noting the range of each species by state, altitudinal range, and preferred vegetation. Those tables include *S. s. spinosus*, not dealt with in the species accounts, but do not include *S. t. torquatus* or *T. m. melanogaster*, both of which do have separate accounts. A graph illustrates the altitudinal distribution of the 32 species discussed, plus *S. s. spinosus*. Two other tables summarize for each of the 32 species, and *S. s. spinosus*, its microhabitat, diel activity, food types, mode of reproduction, number of eggs or neonates produced, and months of reproduction.

This is an inexhaustible mine of information about the natural history of the 32 species of herps occurring with reasonable frequency in the mountains bordering the Valley of Mexico. It will long serve as a model for comparison with other biogeographic entities. And it is most attractively packaged.

Herps in Hollywood: *Dinosaur*

by John Kostka

It's hard to give a fitting review to the movie *Dinosaur*. In some ways it is a fabulous film, full of breathtaking visuals and special effects (a reported \$200 million was spent on this movie). In other ways it sinks to the level of the usual Disney film. While good for both kids and adults, it's the kind of film that kids will probably have more fun watching.

The basic story concerns the plight of the young dinosaur Aladar (voiced by D. B. Sweeny), an iguanodon with a soft spot in his heart uncommon among dinosaurs. We first meet him in the form of an egg, lying in its nest. The nest is promptly destroyed following this opening image, and, of course, this is the only surviving egg. Soon, various critters attempt to eat the egg, but thanks to some incredible miracles, it manages to escape consumption every time.

I will admit that this part of the story is told with some fantastic images, and the awe-inspiring shot of a pterodactyl plunging over a precipice and swooping over a rolling sea is worth the price of admission (it needs to be seen on a movie theater screen). Sadly, most of the rest of the film doesn't live up to these first few minutes.

The egg eventually falls into the nest of a family of lemurs (a strange turn of events that proves rather pointless plotwise), who decide to take the newcomer (who soon hatches) into their loving arms. Years later, we meet the now-grown Aladar, a frisky iguanodon who loves fun almost as much as he loves his foster lemur parents (there's a strange phrase). They still inhabit the lemurs' island, covered with lush green forests and blooming flowers. Basically, it's paradise.

Of course, if his perfect life stayed perfect, there wouldn't be much of a movie, would there? The lemurs are interrupted in the middle of their mating ritual by a sudden meteor shower, destroying their (and hence Aladar's) island home and most everyone they love. This is another bravura sequence, filled with breathtaking visual work, as a wide-eyed Aladar runs across his flaming island paradise and discovers that all of it is destroyed. As it explodes behind him, he makes a daring leap into the stormy sea below, saving his life. He is then assaulted by wave after angry wave, until he is finally washed up on shore, with a few of his lemur friends in tow.

They begin a journey across the desert, where they meet up with a caravan of dinosaurs, led by the tyrant Kron, bound for the "breeding grounds," a utopian dinosaur paradise. Aladar quickly befriends two dinosaurs who had been left behind because they were "too weak" (Kron's policy is something along the lines of "survival of the fittest"). I don't really think that such different breeds of dinosaurs would mix, and of course dinosaurs would not have the intelligence to stay together and help each other out, but never mind that for now. They eventually catch up with the rest of the group, where Aladar meets Neera (voice of Julianna Margulies), a female iguanodon who informs him of Kron's cruel policies.

Of course, Aladar is deeply in love with Neera, but not enough to keep him from voicing his opinions to Kron first. He is immediately given a lecture about survival of the fittest,

and how the group cannot be slowed down in its progress by one individual. Aladar is disheartened, and seems to have made an inner resolve to stay with his new friends no matter what. After this he returns to Neera, who promptly informs her children that he belongs to the species "jerkasaurus." (Chortle! Chortle! Chortle!)

The rest of the film chronicles their arduous journey to the breeding grounds, while throwing in some underlying themes about friendship, respect, and so on.

The basic story of the film will be instantly recognized by those who saw the 1988 Don Bluth film *The Land Before Time*. A family film, it was a fine looking cartoon, and was fun for both adults and children. *Dinosaur* seems like it took the basic plot of that film, revamped it, added a subplot (power battles with a tyrannical leader—Kron), and then did everything over in breathtakingly realistic animation.

Regardless of whether you prefer the cartoon-like animation of *The Land Before Time*, or the more modern effects incorporated in *Dinosaur*, you will most certainly stare in awe at some of the special effects from *Dinosaur*. This is one of the only things that can be said about *Dinosaur* with unflinching confidence. It looks nice. Some other things in the film are not as entertaining.

Take, for instance, Kron, the stereotypical Disney villain. He's the kind of antagonist that has been used in so many other films that he can no longer surpass the realism of a cardboard cutout character (no matter how well he's animated). He could have used a bit more character development because in his current state, he is merely an opposition and nothing else. Maybe by explaining how he got his guerrilla attitude towards life, or by giving him a soft spot, the writers could have created more of a character. In his current state, he seems more a mindless force, like a tornado or earthquake, than a real character and thus a real opponent.

Another good example is the "breeding grounds." It's just too much to believe that there exists this utopian dinosaur paradise with never-ending food and water supplies. In *The Land Before Time*, we are able to accept this, because the more cartoon-like animation constantly reminds us that this is just a movie, and we should go along with it. The problem with *Dinosaur* is that it looks too good. It's so realistic, we start applying real-life principles to make-believe ideas.

Something else that doesn't ring true is that all of the dinosaurs in this movie get along with each other regardless of species differences. In fact, the only ones that cause any trouble at all are the predators, Kron's "hench-dinosaurs" (as I've dubbed them) and Kron himself. He spends the entire movie snarling at our hero and heroine, yelling endlessly about survival of the fittest, and so on. As with all Disney villains, he gets tiresome in a hurry, and by the film's halfway mark you start to get irritated and wonder why one of the characters doesn't just crush his head with a rock (or something equivalent).

Dinosaur will most certainly prove entertaining for children, and perhaps also for indiscriminating adults who can

forget about realism and just go along for the ride (and the accompanying special effects). You may be able to see how such a film could make \$39 million on opening weekend, but those of you who can't just sit back and watch the parade of special effects and beautiful scenery (that is, those of you looking for a more meaningful movie) may find that this film is not all that it was hyped to be.

Walt Disney Entertainment, 2000, 84 min.

MPAA rating: PG for: mild violence

Coming Soon

August 1 — *Komodo* [Komodo Dragons] (direct-to-video)

Undated 2000 — *Godzilla 2000* [Japanese (still the guy in the

rubber suit!)]

There is talk of another Americanized Godzilla movie, Godzilla 2, but not much is known about this at this time. Krocodylus has undergone a title change, and is now Blood Surfer, though it's still about a killer croc. Python seems to be moving steadily along, though there is not even a guess as to the release date as of this time. There is also word that the Japanese films Gamera 2 and Gamera 3 (more rubber monster suits) will be released late this year or in 2001. Also, I would like to note that in my premier article in Volume 32, Number 8, I listed The Wisdom of Crocodiles in the "Coming Soon" section. I have found, though, that this is actually not a reptile movie, but a vampire film instead. I sincerely apologize for any misconceptions this might have caused.

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 35(6):144-146, 2000

HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

Extinct may/may not be forever

- Reuters reports from Madrid: "Spanish biologists have discovered a species of giant lizard that was previously thought to have died out around 500 years ago, newspaper *El Pais* reported on Saturday. The lizard . . . (*Gallotia gomerana*) . . . was only known to scientists through fossilized remains until the discovery of six living examples on the cliffs of La Gomera, one of the Canary Islands, *El Pais* said. "According to international criteria, the giant lizard of La Gomera is an extinct species in nature," said Juan Carlos Rando, one of the biologists who made the discovery last summer. . . . The lizards were being kept in captivity but could be released into a protected area on La Gomera to reproduce under supervision. *El Pais* said the lizards, which measure up to half a meter (yard) in length, were slow moving and easy prey for predators introduced to the island by man, especially cats. Rando said another giant lizard rediscovered in 1974 on El Hierro island, also in the Canaries, had grown in population after authorities took measures to protect its habitat. He told *El Pais* he was confident biologists would now find a long-lost type of giant lizard on La Palma island. Scientists believe the giant lizards arrived in the Canary Islands from Africa around 15 million years ago." [March 21, 2000, from Kathy Bricker <<http://www.cmc-ocean.org>> Center for Marine Conservation]

- "The Spanish ibex, a mountain goat that once populated the Pyrenees mountains, became extinct this month. The end of this species merited one paragraph [in your paper]. Where's your priorities? How far up the food chain must we go for a life form to get appropriate coverage when it becomes forever dead? If you had made this story front-page news, maybe your readers could better recognize what's important in the bigger scheme of things. Dick Ahern, Oakley, California." [*San Francisco Chronicle*, January 22, 2000, from Bradford Norman]

Good news for Carlyle couple

The parents of a three-year-old child tragically squeezed to death by their 7½-foot python were acquitted by a downstate

[Illinois] judge. Prosecutors had charged the grieving parents with child endangerment, but the judge said that they failed to prove the parents knew the snake was certain to endanger their son. The father had said that if he had known the snake would harm his son, he'd not have had the snake. Now he says he probably will not keep any snake again. [Little Rock, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, March 25, 2000, from Bill Burnett]

A virtual field trip to Peru

Greg Neise writes: "Drop by my website <<http://www.rainforestconservation.org>> for the Rainforest Conservation Organization! [I've finished my] Species Data Sheets, . . . scientific and anecdotal information about animal and plant species found at the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Community Reserve in Northeastern Peru, [they are] . . . richly illustrated with photographs." Greg has photos of most of the herpetofauna of Peru; check out his website to see the ones he's scanned in so far. [April 2, 2000]

Florida is crowded these days

- Quoting directly from the *Daily Paper* from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida: "[A 15-year-old boy] was mimicking what he thought was a harmless kingsnake when the reptile suddenly bit . . . [him] on his outstretched tongue. What the Howell Watkins Middle School eighth-grader didn't realize was that the 2-foot-long snake he scooped up in his front yard the day before was a poisonous coral snake—with cobra-like venom. . . . [The youth] was showing the snake to friends when it bit him. He then jumped on his bike and raced a quarter-mile to his home. . . . The family called 911. When Palm Beach Gardens paramedic Tony Vazquez and his fellow firefighters arrived . . . [he was] going downhill fast. "Upon arrival (Rescue 61) found a 15-year-old male patient vomiting, drooling, diaphoretic (sweating profusely), extremely anxious, with bite marks to the patient's tongue," Vazquez's report said. Thirteen minutes later . . . [the youth] was at St. Mary's Medical Center, where he was given antivenin to neutralize the

poison and a tube was put down his throat to retain an airway because his tongue was rapidly swelling, Vazquez said. . . . He spent several days in critical condition on a respirator because his swelled throat interfered with his breathing, said his mother. . . . Doctors told her he would have died without prompt medical care, she said. . . . His mother said . . . [he] loves fishing, animals and anything to do with the water, and has aspirations of working someday with marine animals. In the meantime, his close call hasn't scared him that much. Speaking from his hospital bed, he said he plans to continue collecting snakes. 'Coral snakes have pretty potent venom but fatalities are rare,' said reptile expert Philip Hall, who is an environmental specialist with the Florida Army National Guard. 'They are not uncommon in suburban areas.' U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports show that about 8,000 people are bitten annually by poisonous snakes in the United States, and as many as 15 people die." [April 7, 2000, from Greg Longhurst and James Harding]

- Meanwhile in Palm Bay, Florida, a 42-year-old woman was released from the hospital after being treated for two days for swelling of her throat and fingers which resulted from a bite of a coral snake. The woman did not know the snake was dangerous when she and her roommate tried to catch it while it crawled up a flower pot on their carport. She was bitten in the finger, but they caught the snake and took it to a pet store, where the manager convinced the woman to seek medical attention immediately. She told him that she thought it was a kingsnake. [Sentinel, Orlando, Florida, April 15, 2000, from Bill Burnett]

Reliefangs your symptoms since 1999

"More than half a million patients each year have their clogged arteries . . . [cleaned] with balloon angioplasty. Now researchers report that a new clot-busting drug, Integrilin, derived from — *hiss!* — snake venom, can cut the risk of death and heart attack 40 percent during the first 48 hours after angioplasty." And it only costs \$400, unlike the synthetic competition which costs \$1,500 a shot. [Time, March 27, 2000, from Marcia Rybak]

Thanks for the sheep, cow, sparrow, and . . .

The *Daily Mail* of Watford, England, reports: "Giants from America set up home in Britain. They're over-sized, over-sexed and over here. The North American bullfrog, which can grow to the size of a dinner plate and weigh up to 2 pounds has been found breeding in the Home Counties. Horrified wildlife experts have discovered a colony of the fearsome amphibians, which eat small animals and birds, in a series of lakes on a farm near Edenbridge on the Kent-East Sussex border. Nearly 7 thousand have been captured after breeding successfully for the first time on our shores — but many more are thought to have escaped. . . . Nobody is sure how the giant frogs got there, although it is believed a pair may have escaped from captivity and started producing offspring. [If so, the current year would not be breeding "for the first time." eb] Most bullfrogs are kept by specialist breeders, but before an import ban was imposed in 1997, some ended up in the hands of pet owners. They [the bullfrogs] terrorize other water dwellers, feasting on our native marsh frogs, small mammals and even

bird chicks. One specimen was found in America with an 18-inch mink in its stomach. They also reproduce alarmingly quickly. A female can lay up to 20,000 eggs in one sitting. The alarm was first sounded by a farmer, who noticed tadpoles up to three inches long in his lakes. 'They are big enough to eat a full-grown water vole and still have room for a great-crested newt, [he said]. . . . Bullfrogs are also partial to their English cousins.' . . . English Nature moved in and captured as many as possible, then the ponds were drained and bulldozed. Barricades have been erected in an attempt to stop them [the bullfrogs] spreading." [March 29, 2000, from Bill Burnett's mom] You can E-mail the writer of this piece, James Chapman, at <j.chapman@dailymail.co.uk> if you have any great bullfrog stories to share.

Amphibians on decline since the 1960s

Researchers studying 200 worldwide population data sets on amphibians published a paper in *Nature* that showed that "overall numbers of amphibians dropped 15 percent a year from 1960 to 1966, and continued to decline about 2 percent a year through 1997. . . . [They] suspect a combination of factors: loss of wetlands . . . fertilizers . . . pesticides . . . increased ultraviolet light . . . and the introduction of exotic predators." [Democrat-Gazette, April 15, 2000] To which we could add, increased use of road salt and strange chemicals to melt ice on parking lots and airplanes, dumped fuel and leaked gasoline, nematodes, road construction and suburbanization of farm lands, changes in farming practices, fish stocking, introduced diseases and fungi, collection for the food markets and the pet trades, and so on. The article did refer its readers to the *FrogLog* website <<http://www2.open.ac.uk/biology/froglog/froglog.html>> for more information on this and other amphibian studies worldwide. Meanwhile, *FrogLog*'s Ron Heyer wrote: "The importance of [individual donors'] consistent financial support is not lost on such benefactors as the Detroit Zoological Institute, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Wallis Foundation." Contributions to the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force are always welcome. More information on their website or contact Ronald Heyer, Chair, DAPTF, NHB Mail Stop 180, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0180.

Turtles of the World

- Ruud Altenburg writes: "After an enormous delay, Turtles of the World 1.2 for PC finally has been sent to the printer. This means the CD for Windows will be available in early May. Please check our website <<http://www.eti.uva.nl/>> for availability. . . . This summer, Carl Ernst and I will implement the taxa described or resurrected between December 1997 and April 2000 (mainly SE Asian and Australian taxa). An update to the CD-ROM including these taxa will be made available on our web site." Ruud is with the ETI (Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification). [forwarded by Jim Harding]

- The folks at *Turtle and Tortoise Newsletter* kindly sent a copy of their issue number one, January 2000. If you are into turtles or tortoises, this is definitely a publication to get, and you can read their newsletter online at the Chelonian Research Foundation website <<http://www.chelonian.org>>.

Turtles of Texas

- An association of Texas Environmental Employees accuses their governor, stating “Bush Presides over Sea Turtle Extinction” and “Accommodation of the Shrimp Industry.” Read all about it on their website <<http://www.txpeer.org>> . [from James Harding, April 13, 2000]
- “The Texas state Shrimp Advisory Committee is proposing new restrictions on shrimping gear and a no-trawling zone to protect endangered sea turtles. . . . The proposal, endorsed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, includes permanent closure of state waters around South Padre Island to promote recovery of the critically endangered Kemp’s ridley turtle. Conservationists want all state waters around Padre Island closed so the U.S. government can ‘follow suit’ and close federal waters up to 17 nautical miles offshore.” [GreenLines, April 25, 2000]

Curator sentenced for stealing zoo funds

In a bizarre story that starts with the prosecution and conviction of a Florida reptile dealer, a judge in San Diego, California, has sentenced 66-year-old Earl Thomas Schultz, former San Diego Zoo Curator of Reptiles to pay back some money, reside in a half-way house for 30 days, serve six months of home confinement, perform 400 hours of community service and serve probation for three years. In the sentencing, the judge said, “It really is a shame it ended this way. You didn’t retire with a gold watch, but with a conviction. . . . I think Mr. Schultz has been punished enough by the loss of his reputation.” The former curator was charged with obtaining reptiles, laundering transactions, commingling funds (he claims he stole no zoo money, just cheated everybody else), and a host of other wheeling and dealing he said was to benefit the zoo, but which the judge decided the zoo was unaware of. [San Diego Union Tribune, February 18, 2000] Curiously, the zoo let Mr. Schultz retire with full benefits after 37 years when he pled guilty to these charges last August. The zoo is studying its internal controls after learning that Schultz had imported Australian fauna which he stated would never enter the pet trade—then sold these animals to Tom Crutchfeld’s Florida business. He deposited the funds into his personal account. USFWS got a warrant and raided Schultz’s office but even then zoo officials took no action against him until he pled guilty. One administrator stated he was stunned by the charges because Schultz had been telling everyone that he was not the target of the Justice Department investigation. [both from the San Diego Union Tribune, March 7, 2000, from contributor Sean McKeown—who got a new heart on ReptileFest weekend!]

GreenLines and . . .

- March 27, 2000: The World Wildlife Fund released its list of species most wanted and most threatened by the “booming illegal wildlife trade. . . . [It] includes tigers, pandas, minke whales, hawksbill sea turtles, Sumatran rhinoceros, Tibetan antelopes, Asian box turtles, anteaters, Asian ginseng, and the horned parakeet.” These and millions of other plants and animals are used to supply “wildlife luxury and food products, traditional medicines and exotic pets, for the \$2 to \$3 billion dollar trade, whose ‘profit margins’ are comparable to the

drug trade.” [from Ed Lytwak and Greg Neise]

- April 24, 2000: The death toll mounts in the aftermath of the massive April 7 oil spill at the Patuxent River Chalk Point power plant. So far, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that 44 mammals, 52 birds and 4 reptiles are confirmed dead with many more in critical condition. Volunteers are desperately trying to save animals who have ingested or are covered with oil in the “irrevocably damaged” estuary. Much of the worst damage starts at the “bottom of the food chains” and can’t “easily be seen.” [from Ed Lytwak and Jim Harding]
- April 24, 2000: Environmentalists are balking at recommendations to create a 2,000 square mile Mojave Desert reserve “to offset the loss of tortoise habitat,” from expanding the Army’s National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California. “Dissidents” on a panel created to review the expansion’s environmental impacts say such a reserve would still “not suffice to ensure the future of the threatened tortoise” since the 182 square miles targeted for the expansion is relatively pristine and “home to the desert’s most healthy tortoises.” Several panel members, including the USFWS representative, “refused to sign off” on the recommendations, saying there is “no evidence” the reserve would “benefit the tortoises.” [from Ed Lytwak and original clippings from the Los Angeles Times from Marcia Rybak]
- May 10, 2000: “Animal friendly roads no oxymoron. . . .” State departments of transportation have started initiatives to keep wildlife including threatened and endangered species from becoming road kill says the Chicago Sun-Times, May 1, 2000. The Illinois Department of Transportation is building walls to protect the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and culverts to help Kirtland’s snakes. “Underpasses for turtles, goats, and bears” have been built in California, Montana, and Florida. For more info on the initiatives visit <<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings>> Florida Highway Department website. [From Ed Lytwak and Karen Furnweger]

Thanks to everyone who contributed for this month’s column and to others who have sent me things which I will use next month. Thanks to everyone who came to or participated in ReptileFest. As usual it was a lot of fun and Gary and Lori deserve an awful lot of credit for their unflagging efforts to put on this extravaganza. I just wish they’d do it in February next year when I have some time!!! Julian Bentley (now of Australia, but from the UK) dropped in for the fest and we had to go out and chase herps. In two frantic field nights we saw most of the local amphibians, many as Julian enthusiastically remarked “In Amplexus!” and blew off about 15 rolls of film while thigh deep in the water surrounded by frantically calling males. What a blast!

Don’t forget, you can contribute to this reader driven column. Send whole pages of newspapers or magazines with the date publication slug firmly attached to each and every piece. Be sure your name is on the pieces. It takes me a while to do my reverse origami every month; the simpler the folding, the easier it is to get to the articles. Big envelopes are great. Reuse some old junk mail envelopes and send to: Ellin Beltz, 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-5507. E-mail to <ebeltz@ripco.com> .

The Tympanum

Roger Conant State Nature Preserve?

Letters are Needed!

Using state income tax checkoff funds, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has recently purchased a 75-acre parcel of land in Ashtabula County as its latest nature preserve. This land was acquired primarily because a population of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), a State of Ohio endangered species, resides within its borders. Visiting this preserve will require a permit from the Division.

Because of Roger Conant's prominence in the field of herpetology and his devotion to the reptiles of Ohio, it would be entirely fitting to name the state's first (and probably only) snake preserve in his honor. I would like to try to convince state officials to name the preserve after the 91-year-old herpetologist and I need your help.

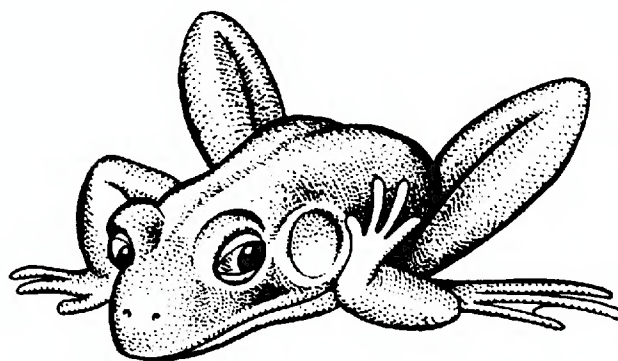
I need letters in support of this idea. If you are willing to write a letter, below are some key points you may want to highlight:

- From 1929 to 1935, on his own time and using personal funds, Roger and his volunteer helpers surveyed the state's reptiles and visited 87 of Ohio's 88 counties. Nine years after its inception, his study was published by the *American Midland Naturalist* as a 200-page book titled *Reptiles of Ohio*. In 1951, the work was revised and expanded with new data, adding almost 100 additional pages. From the start of this project in 1929, to the end with the publication of the revised edition in 1951, Roger Conant devoted 22 years of his life to *Reptiles of Ohio*. This survey was acclaimed by the then dean of American herpetologists, Karl P. Schmidt of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, as "a model state herpetology" and remains a valuable record of the distribution of Ohio's reptiles.

- The vehicle used by Roger Conant in the six years of field work was a Chevrolet sedan purchased for \$1000. That sum was the award given to him by the state of Ohio as compensation for the loss of his thumb after the attending physician had bungled the treatment for a rattlesnake bite which had occurred at the zoo.

- *Reptiles of Ohio* served as the catalyst for a group of enthusiastic young men interested in herpetology. In the late 1950s this group organized themselves into the Ohio Herpetological Society and Roger Conant served as their long-term, unofficial adviser. The OHS grew and eventually evolved into the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the largest organization in the world devoted to this group of animals.

- Dr. Conant is the author of the *Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, in the Peterson series, which has sold a half million copies and is the best selling book in herpetology.



Address your letters to: Stu Lewis, Chief, ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Fountain Square, Columbus, OH 43224. Please mail the letters to me by July 15. I will then put them together into a nomination package.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you. **Raymond Novotny, Naturalist/Assistant Manager, Ford Nature Center, Mill Creek MetroParks, 840 Old Furnace Road, Youngstown, OH 44511.**

330.740.7107 work

330.792.6430 home

raynovotny@yahoo.com or ray@cboss.com

Turtles, Snakes, Lizards . . . and Your Kid!

"Hey, Dad, wanna go paintballing this weekend?"

Okay, so you want to spend time with your kid. You want to *share experiences* with him. But splattering his face with paint isn't what you had in mind. And that violent video game he's always asking you to play with him really turns you off. The movies *he* finds "cool" leave *you* feeling exploited and manipulated. Board games are a possibility, but he takes it hard when you beat him. Besides, *competing* with your kid isn't really the kind of bonding experience you envisioned.

You and *your* dad bonded at ball games, but your son likes only to *play*, not watch. You and *your* dad built a model train layout together, but your kid can't relate to trains, and besides, there's really no space for it in your townhouse. What's even more challenging is that, ideally, you'd really like to find something to share with him that is *ongoing* — something you and your child can grow with year after year. Summer offers bicycling, camping, canoe trips . . . but then comes the long, empty winter hiatus.

So here's the best kept secret in town (something your kid may *already* be interested in): turtles, snakes and lizards.

The Chicago Herpetological Society has something very special to offer you and your kids: a chance to *really* share in an activity you, too, can feel good about. The CHS is a long-standing Chicago institution. Its members are an exceptionally generous and caring group of folks whose only "motive" seems to be to enjoy the wonders and diversity of the reptile world and to teach *more* folks to appreciate and help preserve that world. Just exposing you child to the genuinely caring attitude of this extraordinary society is enough reason to get involved.

But there's much *more* to feel good about. The monthly meetings (held the last Wednesday evening of each month at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum) include a brief business meeting, a fun raffle of reptile enthusiasts' goodies (in which many kids are winners), and an informative slide lecture delivered by prominent figures in herpetology. For less than it

would cost you to take your kids to one movie you can enjoy *twelve* lectures given by people as diverse as the director of the Brookfield Zoo Reptile House, Paul Sereno (world-renowned dinosaur hunter) and a professional giant-Amazon-snake capturer.

But the fun doesn't stop there. A few live reptiles show up at every meeting; some can be handled by your kids. Various reptiles are offered for free adoption each month, and the knowledgeable members of the CHS will throw in free expert advice as to which reptiles are appropriate for your child and how to care for them. Special events and field trips offer many more opportunities for you and your child to share memorable real-life, hands-on experiences (not digital and not Disney). There's the annual ReptileFest at which your child may not only see and learn about the many live creatures on display but may show off his *own* turtle or gecko.

On a recent early spring Saturday morning my son and I were led down a Forest Preserve path by one of the experienced CHS members to a secret place where together we could search under fallen logs for little blue-spotted salamanders. What fun to discover one and call the other to come see and

hold your find!

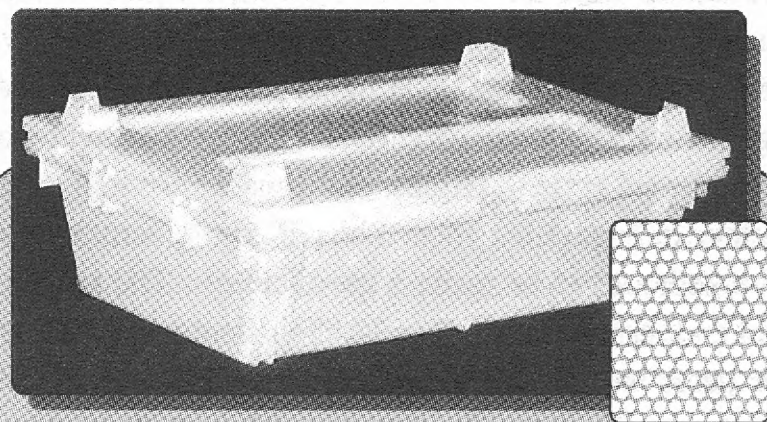
But there is one more fact about the CHS which may supersede *all* the reasons I've already stated for getting involved (and becoming a member). In a world which increasingly sees our children only as objects to be exploited for profit, this truly exceptional group seems to have a genuine commitment to nurturing and educating kids. They are patient, tolerant and welcoming to the children who attend their meetings. No child will ever feel out-of-place or unwelcome in the CHS. On the contrary, kids in the CHS will quickly feel valued and respected for who they are: kids excited by interesting animals and wanting to help those animals survive. The CHS adults seem wisely to view children as allies in an ongoing struggle to protect and preserve the world's fragile reptile populations . . . and the kids get the message that they *are* important. Children are encouraged to try their wings by showing their pets or talking about their reptile-related experiences. This is a real-life experience that will help any child grow.

Come meet the CHS; bring your son or daughter who loves animals. You'll both have a good time. **Bob Herman,**
5461 S. Ridgewood, Chicago IL 60615.

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Herpetology 2000

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editor assumes full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements.

BOLIVIAN DENDROBATIDS

L. Gonzales et al. [1999, *Herpetozoa* 12(3/4):179-186] note that *Epipedobates bolivianus* (Boulenger, 1902) is an uncommon poison dart frog (Dendrobatidae) from the eastern versant of the Bolivian Andes. Until now it was only known from the type series. The authors recently rediscovered this species close to the type locality. They describe the coloration in life for the first time. Also, they record *Colostethus brunneus* (Cope, 1887) from Bolivia for the first time. New Bolivian localities are reported for *C. mcdiarmidi* Reynolds & Foster, 1992 and *C. trilineatus* Boulenger. The authors summarize and discuss the distribution and taxonomy of the Bolivian poison dart frogs.

TORTOISE HUSBANDRY

V. J. T. Loehr [1999, *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 3(3):468-473] reports on maintaining and breeding the Namaqualand speckled padloper, *Homopus s. signatus*, in captivity. Two male and two female wild-caught specimens were kept by the author in The Netherlands. Diet, caging, disease treatment, heating and lighting are discussed in some detail. Data are presented for egg clutches from both females in 1995, 1996 and 1997. Growth rates are presented for seven hatchlings. The author believes that although *H. signatus* has special requirements, the species can be kept successfully if these requirements are met.

VITAMIN D₃ SYNTHESIS IN LIZARDS

E. N. Carman et al. [2000, *Copeia* (1):245-250] compared the opportunity and ability to photobiosynthesize vitamin D₃ by exposing skin to ultraviolet-B (UVB) irradiation from the sun, using the nocturnal/crepuscular Mediterranean house gecko, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, and the diurnal Texas spiny lizard, *Sceloporus olivaceus*. Texas spiny lizards had a greater opportunity for photobiosynthetic production of vitamin D₃ than geckos. This was revealed by vitamin D₃ photoproduct production in models (ampoules containing an alcohol solution of vitamin D₃ precursor) placed at locations inhabited by free-living lizards at similar times of occupancy. Alternatively, geckos seemed able to maximize their limited photobiosynthetic opportunity with a higher rate of conversion of provitamin D₃ to photoproducts. This was revealed by photoproduct conversion in patches of lizard skin exposed to ultraviolet lamps in the laboratory. Stomach-content analysis showed the spiny lizards to have dietary sources of vitamin D₃; the geckos may or may not. This is the first documentation that mostly nocturnal geckos may rely on photobiosynthesis of vitamin D₃ and that they might have a more sensitive mechanism than diurnal lizards to compensate for their limited exposure to natural UVB radiation. Future studies should investigate sexual, seasonal, age and species differences in photobiosynthetic opportunity and ability.

EGG VIABILITY FROM HORMONALLY INDUCED OVIPOSITION

J. G. Wilgenbusch and D. T. Gantz [2000, *Herpetologica* 56(1):1-7] collected eggs of the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) over two consecutive years both from gravid females hormonally induced to oviposit and from newly (<12 h) constructed nests. Eggs were incubated in the laboratory under wet and dry conditions to determine whether the method of procurement influenced egg viability. Net gain in egg mass during incubation and hatching success (egg survivorship) were used as measures of egg viability. Hatchling body size was also analyzed for effects due to egg procurement method. Eggs collected from nests gained significantly more mass during the incubation period than did eggs collected from females hormonally induced to oviposit. This difference may have resulted from the particular way that eggs were collected. Females were induced to oviposit directly into water and, therefore, their eggs may have had higher water potential at the start of incubation than eggs collected from nests. The authors' analyses were unable to detect differences in hatching success and hatchling body size between the egg procurement methods.

FORAGING MODES IN SOUTH AFRICAN SKINKS

W. E. Cooper, Jr., and M. J. Whiting [2000, *Copeia* (1):112-118] note that foraging methods of insectivorous lizards fall into two major modes, ambush foraging, in which the lizard waits immobile to detect prey, and active foraging, in which the lizard moves through its habitat while searching for prey. Both modes exhibit remarkable phylogenetic stability. Ambush foraging is the sole mode of all iguanians examined to date, and active foraging is the only known mode in large scleroglossan clades such as Teiidae and Varanoidea. The authors present quantitative data on foraging behavior demonstrating the existence of intrageneric variation in foraging mode in the scincid genus *Mabuya* in southern Africa. Like the large majority of skinks, *Mabuya striata sparsa*, *M. sulcata*, and *M. variegata* are active foragers that have high values of number of movements per minute (MPM), proportion of time spent moving (PTM), and mean speed (average speed including time spent immobile) but relatively low speed while moving. In contrast, *M. acutilabris* and *M. spilogaster* are ambush foragers having significantly lower MPM, PTM, and mean speed but higher average speed while moving than the other species. The importance of these findings is twofold. First, intrafamilial variation in foraging mode in Scincidae and intrageneric variation are verified for *Mabuya*. Second, because intrageneric variation in foraging mode was previously known from quantitative data only in the lacertid genera *Acanthodactylus* and *Pedioplanis* (and atypically in *Meroles*), an excellent opportunity is provided to test hypotheses about foraging mode without confounding interfamilial phylogenetic differences.

RED-EARED SLIDER HATCHLING EMERGENCE

J. K. Tucker [1999, *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 3(3): 401-406] examined temperature and precipitation correlates of hatchling emergence from nests in the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) in west-central Illinois. Rising daily low temperatures were the only statistically significant environmental variable recorded during the period when naturally emerging hatchlings were caught. However, partial correlations suggested that the number of hatchlings caught increased with both increasing daily low and daily high temperatures, i.e., as the weather warmed. Most hatchlings were caught when both daily high and low temperatures were relatively high. Hatchling emergence was not directly associated with precipitation but generally occurred during periods of rising temperatures following rain events. Temperatures were also monitored in experimental nest cavities. Emergence occurred after soil temperature became warmer at the top of the nest cavity than at the bottom. Springtime hatchling emergence in species that overwinter in the nest appears to be influenced by environmental conditions both within and outside the nest cavity.

TRANSVESTITE SERPENTS

R. Shine et al. [2000, *Animal Behaviour* 59(2):349-359] note that in large mating aggregations of red-sided garter snakes, *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*, in Manitoba, male courtship is directed not only to females, but also to other males with female-like skin lipids (“she-males”). Over a quarter of the “mating balls” observed were actually centered on a “she-male.” The authors show that “she-maleness” is an intrinsic property of a male rather than an artifact of lipid transfer from females, and that male-male courtship is very common in the field. They suggest that “she-maleness” suppresses the snakes’ urge to court females while they are still weak from hibernation, preventing them from wasting valuable energy on courting when they are likely to fail. Masquerading as females also confuses other males, distracting them from true females.

SIZE VARIATION IN SLIDER HATCHLINGS

J. K. Tucker [2000, *Herpetologica* 56(1):8-13] examined variation in hatchling size over three years (1995–1997) in the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) at a nesting site in Jersey County, Illinois. The number and sizes of natural hatchlings varied among years. Hatchlings collected in 1996 from eggs laid in 1995 were larger in both mass and carapace length than those collected in 1995 or 1997 from eggs laid in 1994 and 1996, respectively. The author suggests that increased rainfall of nearly three times normal during May 1995 was one possible cause for the larger size of hatchlings collected in 1996. Variation in resource availability may also have contributed to the variation in hatchling size. Egg size adjusted for maternal body size was largest in 1995, and these eggs produced the largest hatchlings. Only experimental or long-term studies can elucidate the sources and biological significance of variation in hatchling size. Factors such as climatic changes that affect moisture levels during incubation could have biologically relevant effects on hatchling size among species of turtles that lay flexible-shelled eggs.

GLOBAL AMPHIBIAN POPULATION DECLINES

J. E. Houlahan et al. [2000, *Nature* 404:752-755] note that although there is growing concern that amphibian populations are declining globally, much of the supporting evidence is either anecdotal or derived from short-term studies at small geographical scales. This raises questions not only about the difficulty of detecting temporal trends in populations which are notoriously variable, but also about the validity of inferring global trends from local or regional studies. The authors use data from 936 populations to assess large-scale temporal and spatial variations in amphibian population trends. On a global scale, the results indicate relatively rapid declines from the late 1950s/early 1960s to the late 1960s, followed by a reduced rate of decline to the present. Amphibian population trends during the 1960s were negative in western Europe (including the United Kingdom) and North America, but only the latter populations showed declines from the 1970s to the late 1990s. These results suggest that while large-scale trends show considerable geographical and temporal variability, amphibian populations are in fact declining—and that this decline has been happening for several decades.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *TARENTOLA MAURITANICA*

P. Geniez et al. [1999, *Herpetozoa* 12(3/4):187-194] describe *Tarentola mauritanica pallida*, a new form of the genus *Tarentola* from northwestern Africa. It differs from *T. mauritanica mauritanica* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *T. mauritanica juliae* Joger, 1984, which also occur in this region, by its pale, pinkish or yellowish general coloration; its translucent skin; its smoother, less warty, general appearance, partly due to the flat mid-dorsal tubercles; its yellow regenerated tail, sometimes with purplish marbling; its isolated dorsal tubercles lacking large secondary tubercles and not being encircled by a row of smaller tubercles; and the slightly lower number of subdigital lamellae. The new taxon differs from *T. boehmei* Joger, 1984 by its general coloration which is less strictly pinkish; the slightly different head shape and the diagnostically lower numbers of subdigital lamellae (17 or 18 versus 21 to 23) and gular scales (33 to 45 versus 42 to 53). Its geographical range seems to be limited to the Atlantic fringe of southern Morocco and Western Sahara, between the mouth of Oued Drâa and Dchira.

MAGNETIC ORIENTATION IN NEWTS

M. E. Deutschlander et al. [2000, *Copeia* (2):413-419] note that orientation toward and away from shore (y-axis orientation) plays an important role in the daily and seasonal movements of amphibians. A variety of studies have shown that amphibians use both celestial cues and the geomagnetic field for y-axis orientation. However, few studies have addressed how quickly amphibians are able to learn the direction of a new shore. Based on laboratory experiments, the authors show that the eastern red-spotted newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens*, is able to learn the direction of the y-axis with respect to the geomagnetic field within 12–16 h. In conjunction with previous findings, the results suggest that the geomagnetic field is an important and readily used cue for orientation in amphibians.

COMMERCIALIZATION OF RATTLESNAKES

L. A. Fitzgerald and C. W. Painter [2000, Wildlife Society Bulletin 28(1):235-253] note that rattlesnakes are commercially exploited to supply an international trade in skins, meat, gall bladders and curios. Five species are used in eight states: western diamondback rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico; eastern diamondback rattlesnakes (*C. adamanteus*) in Alabama, Florida and Georgia; prairie rattlesnakes (*C. viridis*) in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico; and timber rattlesnakes (*C. horridus*) in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Blacktail rattlesnakes (*C. molossus*) occasionally appear in the trade in New Mexico and Texas. The trade is linked to rattlesnake roundups, which are economically important to local communities. The authors estimate that 15% of the western diamondback and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes entering the trade originate from roundups. In the 1990s, probably <125,000 rattlesnakes of all species entered the trade yearly. Analyses of long-term data from three rattlesnake roundups showed variable trends in rate of take, number of hunters and pounds of snakes/hunter. Analysis of the take of western diamondback rattlesnakes from 1959 to 1997 at the roundup at Sweetwater, Texas, showed no long-term trends, but was characterized by extreme variability. Body size (snout-vent length [SVL] and mass) and sex ratios of hunted western diamondback rattlesnakes varied significantly by region and through time. These differences were probably due more to geographic and temporal variation than to the effects of hunting. Rattlesnake harvests of all species were male biased, and a few hunters collected the majority of the take. A model of the economic impacts of imposing size restrictions on rattlesnake harvests showed that hunters earn 19% more money when restricting take to rattlesnakes >90 cm SVL (size at maturity of most females) whereas profit to the industry increased 6%. Size limits below 90 cm SVL would minimally impact total take; restricting take to rattlesnakes >90 cm SVL would reduce the number of immature females taken by almost 50%. Rattlesnake species differ in susceptibility to overexploitation, and research on life-history variation should be an important management priority. Information also is needed on local versus regional impacts of hunting, and monitoring information is needed for the entire trade. Rattlesnakes are traded alive, and issues relating to the treatment of live rattlesnakes need to be considered when developing management plans for North American rattlesnakes.

FANG TIP DISTANCE AND SNAKEBITE SUCTION

K. R. Zamudio et al. [2000, Toxicon 38:723-728] measured the distance between fang tip punctures in defensive bites by western diamondback rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) and the distance between their retracted fangs. Their findings showed that the fang tips at penetration average 112% farther apart than their bases at rest. Thus, during a strike, the protraction mechanism, which moves the maxillae and attached fangs upward and outward, more than doubles the distance between the tips of the fangs at rest. Based on this result, the authors conclude that *The Extractor*®, a device widely marketed in the United States for snakebite first aid, will not simultaneously cover both punctures of most adult New World pitvipers.

LIFE HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER

P. C. Trenham et al. [2000, Copeia (2):365-377] in December 1991 initiated a long-term study of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) at a breeding pond in Monterey County, California. Because of habitat loss, this species is a candidate for federal endangered species status, but many basic features of its life history and demography have not been studied in detail. During the first seven years of this study, the authors captured, measured, individually marked, and released 657 breeding adults and 1895 newly metamorphosed juveniles at the drift fence encircling this pond. They also used skeletochronology to investigate age structure in cohorts of breeding adults. Numbers of breeding adults varied by more than a factor of four among years, and annual juvenile production ranged from 121 to 775 metamorphs. Contrary to the results of related studies, total juvenile production was positively related to the total biomass of breeding females. Both skeletochronology and mark-recapture data indicate that most individuals do not reach sexual maturity until 4–5 years of age, and, although individual longevity can exceed 10 years, less than 50% of individuals returned to breed a second time. These results suggest that this breeding population was a reproductive sink during the period of this study and that isolated breeding ponds may be insufficient for the long-term maintenance of viable populations of *A. californiense*.

LONG-NOSED SNAKE FOOD HABITS

J. A. Rodríguez-Robles and H. W. Greene [1999, J. Zool., London 248:489-499] explored predator specialization by examining dietary variation in the widespread North American long-nosed snake, *Rhinocheilus lecontei*. We examined the stomach contents of more than 800 museum specimens, and supplemented these findings with published dietary records. Sixty-six percent of 135 prey eaten by *R. lecontei* were lizards, 26% were mammals, and 7% were squamate eggs; teiid lizards of the genus *Cnemidophorus* comprised 72% (64 of 89) of all lizard prey. Ninety-four percent of specimens with food contained a single item, and all 79 prey for which direction of ingestion was determined were swallowed head-first. Among those specimens containing food, long-nosed snakes from Mexico were significantly larger, and ate a higher percentage of mammals, than specimens from the United States. Larger *R. lecontei* sometimes fed on larger prey, and perhaps excluded smaller prey from their diet. To assess relative trophic niche breadth for *R. lecontei*, the authors compared the percentage of lizards and of *Cnemidophorus* in the diet of long-nosed snakes with the percentage with which other terrestrial snakes consumed lizards as their modal prey, and with which these same snakes ate members of their preferred lizard prey genus. Although the authors uncovered no statistical basis for labeling *R. lecontei* a specialist, its diet may often be restricted to lizards and even to *Cnemidophorus*, and therefore recognizing long-nosed snakes as specialist predators remains a subjective decision. The study also demonstrates that quantitative natural history can place related species in a resource use continuum, and thereby can help to elucidate the evolutionary basis for specialization.

HYBRIDIZATION AMONG WHIPTAIL LIZARDS

H. C. Dessauer et al. [2000, Bull. American Mus. Nat. Hist. Number 266] report that *Cnemidophorus tigris punctilinealis* of the Sonoran Desert and *C. t. marmoratus* of the Chihuahuan Desert contact each other and interbreed in the Animas Valley of southwestern New Mexico. More than 600 specimens were examined from the contact region, and data on biochemical genetics (mitochondrial DNA haplotypes, protein electrophoresis of nuclear gene products), chromosomes, external morphology (coloration, size, scalation), reproduction, and fitness were compared for three hybrid zones. Habitats in the contact region were mapped and photographed, and they are discussed in the context of vegetational changes during Pleistocene to Recent times, which affected the geographic distribution of these animals. Data from mitochondrial DNA, allele frequencies at four protein loci (of 36 analyzed), and body coloration demonstrate that the areas of contact have steep, concordant, and coincident step-clines in which most gene exchange occurs in hybrid zones that are 3.2–7.8 km wide. Analyses of allele frequencies, genotype frequencies, and fixation indices indicate a population structure determined primarily by random mating and an absence of selection against hybrids. Estimates of gene flow indicate that the clines resulted from neutral secondary contact initiated with the newest reconnection of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts within the present interglacial episode, from 1000 to 5000 years ago. This timeframe is consistent with paleoecological data from packrat middens. Analyses of karyotypes, morphology, reproduction, and physiology also fail to detect differences in fitness among lizards with various genotypes. Although it is possible that there are fitness differences too small to be detected by the sample sizes employed, the data indicate that reproductive success, fitness, and the dynamics of populations within the hybrid zones presently are no different from those in nonhybrid populations. Earlier data, which suggested that one of the step-clines was moving, are not supported. The clines are located in fragile semiarid habitats that are subject to desertification. Consequently, the authors present considerable data and dated photographs of habitats, precise locations of sampling sites, and local allele frequencies, so that future investigators can monitor changes in position, width, or dynamics of these hybrid zones. Population genetics are discussed in the context of the following: (1) absence of rare, apparently novel alleles forming in the hybrid zones; (2) genetic comparisons with additional subspecies of *C. tigris* (*C. t. aethiops* and *C. t. septentrionalis*); and (3) interspecific hybridization between *C. tigris* and other whiptail lizards. *Cnemidophorus tigris* is one of the ancestors of some of the parthenogens, which are of hybrid origin, and interest in their evolutionary history fuels efforts to improve understanding of hybridization among whiptail lizards.

SNAKES OF THE *LIOPHIS TAENIURUS* COMPLEX

J. R. Dixon [2000, Copeia (2):482–490] reviews the snakes of the *Liophis taeniurus* group from western South America. This includes a taxonomic comparison of *taeniurus* and *testae*, and a brief description of variation among them. Two new species are described: *Liophis vitti*, named in honor of Laurie J. Vitt, and *L. janaleeae*, named for Janalee P. Caldwell.

BODY SIZE AND DIET OF NEWLY TRANSFORMED SPADEFOOTS

R. A. Newman [1999, Herpetologica 55(4):507–515], noting that size at metamorphosis may influence terrestrial performance of anurans in numerous ways, examined the diet of recently transformed spadefoot toads (*Scaphiopus couchii*) of varying size to see if body size influenced foraging success. Prey availability was examined using sticky traps. Toadlets ate a wide size range (0.2 to > 15 mm in length) of arthropod prey. In moist habitats where toadlets were active, small arthropods were abundant and toadlets of all sizes had numerous prey items in their stomachs. Prey sizes and taxa varied with toadlet size; smaller toadlets ate prey of smaller minimum, mean, and maximum sizes than larger toadlets. Smaller prey were relatively more abundant on sticky traps, suggesting that the prey size distribution of the smallest toadlets most closely matched the size distribution of prey available. Larger toadlets were more selective in their prey choice. In feeding trials, larger toadlets were much better than small toadlets at capturing prey (pinhead crickets) that were at the higher end of the prey size distribution of the smaller toadlets. However, at least on moist soil, arthropods of all sizes were available, and the body size of field-collected toadlets was unrelated to the number of prey items in the stomach. Larger toadlets may only have a foraging advantage under crowded conditions, or as soil dries and size-dependent biophysical constraints on activity are imposed.

TADPOLE TAIL DAMAGE

J. Blair and R. J. Wasserzug [2000, Copeia (2):390–401] note that tadpoles in nature are often found with injured tails. This study introduces a planimetric technique for compiling data on the injuries sustained by individual tadpoles, which allows visualization and quantification of the tail damage sustained by a population as a whole. The authors use this technique to compare the pattern and severity of damage in tadpoles from seven species (*Ascaphus truei*, *Bufo americanus*, *Phyllomedusa tomopterna*, *Pseudacris crucifer*, *Rana catesbeiana*, *Rana sylvatica*, and *Rhinophrynus dorsalis*) that differ in microhabitat use (benthic vs pelagic), tail morphology (filamentous vs nonfilamentous) and palatability to predators. The authors also examine differences in tail damage across developmental stages. Finally, they compare interpopulation variation for *R. sylvatica* tadpoles from six separate ponds. The tail tip was the most commonly damaged area in all tadpoles, although the pattern and severity of injury varied greatly across species. Unpalatable, benthic larvae sustained small nicks around the margin of the tail, whereas pelagic and palatable species more often had the tail tip sheared off caudally. Little damage was found in any species in the anterior portion of the tail, where most thrust is generated during swimming. Only one species, *A. truei*, exhibited increased tail damage as the tadpoles aged. Later stage *P. crucifer* and *R. sylvatica* larvae in contrast, had significantly less tail damage than younger stage conspecifics. Although this could be the result of different healing rates at different stages, alternatively it suggests that for these species, survivorship is ultimately reduced in individuals that lose a substantial part of the tail when they are young.

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, May 19, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Lori King at 7:46 P.M. Board members Karen Bielski, Greg Brim, Rich Crowley, Marcia Rybak and Jack Schoenfelder were absent.

Officers' Reports

The official minutes of the April 2000 Board of Directors' Meeting were read by Michael Dloogatch. Corrections were made and the minutes were accepted.

The treasurer's report as submitted by Gary Fogel was accepted. Gary also presented a detailed Income/Expense statement for ReptileFest from 1999 and 2000.

Michael Dloogatch distributed a year-to-date membership report. Since January the membership has dropped by nine, including 32 nonrenewals in the last month. There was some discussion about the possible impact of ReptileFest and the change of the meeting site on membership renewals. Mike also raised the issue of a former board member who has been getting *Bulletins* but not paying dues since 1989.

Vice-President Lori King reported no changes in scheduled speakers since last month. She said that member Bob Herman was dismayed to see only about 50 people at Gunther Kohler's talk at the April general meeting. This prompted him to write a laudatory article about the CHS. Lori encouraged him to submit it for publication to local newspapers. The group discussed possible reasons for the decline in attendance from prior years. The ease of accessing information through popular magazines and the Internet were cited by Mike. Several people described the loss of attendance by people who used the meetings for animal traffic and trade, which happens now more easily at swap meets. Gary Fogel emphasized the need to wait for some months to allow people to get used to the CHS' return to the CAS. Steve Spitzer suggested that we consider encouraging the social aspects of the CHS. Ron Humbert reminded the group that we all need to act as individual spokesmen for the value of the meetings and the organization.

Corresponding Secretary Steve Spitzer wrote a letter to the Field Museum extending our thanks for their involvement and our wish to continue the educational relationship with them. Steve also researched the CHS telephone message. We have a phone number which forwards to a voice mail line. We can split the current voicemail into a primary box and three additional boxes which can be selected by the caller. This would allow the main message to be, for example, the announcement of the next meeting and the speaker. Then the additional selections could include membership, adoptions and shows. This will be discussed further with Jack.

Publications: Mike mentioned that Marcia Rybak has found that people who were having difficulties accessing the website before ReptileFest may have been experiencing problems related to a routing flaw which has been corrected. Individual Internet service providers need to use a different number and all have been notified.

Standing Committees

Grants: Mike reported that seven grants have been awarded this year. The recipients' names, their projects and their awards appear in the May *Bulletin*.

Shows: Steve will provide turtles for a presentation at the Chicago Park District's May 25 event during which children will make turtles from boxes. Jenny Vollman requested volunteers to exhibit at the Field Museum Members' Nights, 5-10 P.M., June 8 and 9. Exhibitors would need to arrive by 4 P.M. Jenny confirmed that a Breeder's Expo will take place in Gurnee for two days in July. This event was held last year as well. The animals are captive bred and professionally displayed. Jenny attended last year and will represent the CHS again this year on both days. A free table will be provided for us which we can use for sales and membership information. Timberline Fisheries will provide discounted crickets for us to sell as well as printed signs for display. We will be donating the proceeds of the sale to a conservation project yet to be determined. Lori described a good opportunity for the CHS to enhance our relationship with the Chicago Academy of Sciences. She was contacted by Nicole Royale who will be newly in charge of organizing a Labor Day HerPETological Weekend for the CAS. She is very interested in our participation and welcomes our ideas about how we would like to be involved. Lori suggested a committee be formed to define our role and Jenny volunteered to prepare an initial outline of ideas to consider: e.g., the CHS can operate a photo booth and retain the profits.

Raffle: Gary Kostka reported that the raffles continue to be going well. People especially look forward to the unique items. Don Wheeler's contributions were much appreciated. Mike Redmer contributed a copy of the new field guide to Illinois herps and will be contributing another in the future. *Reptiles* magazine will be providing free subscriptions. Marcia Rybak will be sending another batch of solicitation letters to potential contributors.

ReptileFest: The budget was reviewed. In spite of the increase in the admission price, expenses exceeded income. The anticipated press coverage didn't materialize, in spite of Lori and Gary's careful planning with the media. Gary understood this as a given; that the press makes their final coverage decisions at the last moment, and that they cannot be counted on. Web site problems also interfered with access to info regarding the 'Fest. There was an unexpected c. \$1,000 table and chair rental fee which was not required last year. In spite of these disappointments, the show looked great and the people who attended were very pleased. There was some discussion about possible ways to improve attendance and decrease the show's expenses. The Grove would be happy to host the event at no cost. Ron Humbert supported exploring suburban high schools with large gymnasiums as other possible venues. A large number of attendants stated in the surveys that they had heard about the 'Fest in the *Reptiles* magazine article written by Gary Kostka. Jenny Vollman is prepared to contact three sources who have expressed a willingness to consider sponsorships for

the 2001 'Fest if we can give them a year's lead time to allow for inclusion in their budgets. The ReptileFest committee will meet soon to do a post-show discussion. A new committee will need to be organized soon after.

Ad Hoc Committees

Nominating: This year's committee consists of Joan Moore, Ron Humbert, Jenny Vollman, Linda Malawy and Rich Crowley. They will meet soon to discuss potential nominees for next year's board.

Trips: None planned. Gary Fogel mentioned that if anyone was interested in taking charge of planning a trip, he would support this idea.

Picnic: Steve Spitzer announced that the combined CHS/Turtle Club Picnic will be held at the Camp Ground Road Grove in Des Plaines on August 13. The CHS has usually provided the permit, charcoal and soft drinks. The Turtle Club will bring piñatas. Steve plans to work within a modest budget.

Old Business

Rich Crowley was not present to discuss information he obtained regarding the land tortoise ban. The hearing to review it has been pushed back to July 7 so the ban (which makes it illegal to import land tortoises or to transport them across state lines) will remain in effect at least to that date.

Lori King distributed the program for the HERP DAY which was held at the Philadelphia Zoo. Over 13 herpetological societies participated in this event. The zoo thanked us for sending items for their silent auction. It earned \$750 for a diamondback terrapin headstart program.

Lori also showed members the new Neiman-Marcus catalog. In addition to the absence of the ad for the Shoot Your Own Saltwater Crocodile Chair (due largely to the efforts of Lori acting for the CHS in concert with Steve Irwin), N-M is calling this catalog "Compassion." The graphic designers for the ads have included many animals including lots of reptiles presented in visually pleasing poses on the models.

New Business

Our insurance coverage expires during early May, which created last minute problems this year when it expired during ReptileFest. This will not be an issue if ReptileFest is held earlier in the year to avoid conflicting with outdoor activities on the warm weather days of May.

The Short for the May general meeting has not been planned. Ron Humbert offered to do one on treefrogs, if there are no other volunteers. Treefrogs then would also be the animals of the month for the meeting.

Complaints continue to come in from members regarding the monthly *Bulletin* arriving after the monthly meeting. One basis for the complaints is that members rely on the *Bulletin* as a reminder to come to the general meeting (although it's questionable that this actually would influence attendance). Mike

Dloogatch said that this has been happening because we are using a new printer who does not do the mailings himself but sends them out to a third party. This delays the process for a week or more. Gary Fogel suggested getting the *Bulletin* to the printer two weeks earlier. There was discussion of the possibility of sending a newsletter in addition to the *Bulletin*, which could then include a timely reminder of the meeting and the speaker. This would require someone who was interested in taking this on. There were no volunteers.

Round Table

Mike reported that Greg Brim sent flowers to Jack Schoenfelder's family. The board expressed its condolences on the death of Jack's mother.

Gary Kostka expressed thanks to Bob Bavirsha, Dan Bavirsha and Iggy Ihrig for all the work they did in constructing set-ups for the 'Fest.

Jenny Vollman thanked John Kostka for manning the Photo Booth, which earned \$100 more than last year.

Lori thanked everyone in the room for all their hard work on the 'Fest.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Forcade, substituting for Recording Secretary Karen Bielski.

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For sale: from **The Mouse Factory**, producing superior quality, frozen feeder mice and rats. We feed our colony a nutritionally balanced diet of rodent chow, formulated especially for us, and four types of natural whole grains and seeds. Mice starting from: pinks, \$.17 each; fuzzies, \$.24 each; hoppers, \$.30 each; weanling, \$.42; adult, \$.48. Rats: starting with pinks at \$.45 each, to XL at \$1.80 each. Discount prices available. We accept Visa, MC, Discover or money orders. P.O. Box 85, Alpine TX 79831. Call us **toll-free** at (800) 720-0076 or visit our website: <http://www.themousefactory.com>.

For sale: from Bayou Rodents, excellent quality feeder mice and rats. Every size available. Pinks starting at \$20/100. Orders are shipped by overnight service Monday thru Thursday. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For more info, contact Rhonda or Peggy, (800) 722-6102.

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For sale: '99 c.b. baby snakes: two Sinaloa milks, \$50 each or 2/\$90; one Arizona mountain king (*woodini*), \$85; one eastern milk, \$15; one Stuart's milk ("late starter"), \$65; all feeding on pinks. Make offer for all the above. Also, bearded dragons, \$20–25 each. Henry Cohen, 24 St. Johns Place, Buffalo NY 14201, (716) 881-6724.

For sale: A number of both long and short term stock, many are breeders, the rest are "up and coming." The animals available will be primarily pine snakes, bullsnakes, and western fox snakes, possibly some corn snakes. Permits where necessary. Please note that all animals are locality stock, and therefore only the serious need inquire. In short, if you're interested in albinos or assorted other mutants, this ad is not for you. For the serious, contact Bart Bruno @ (203) 773-9257, evenings up to 10 P.M., weekends after 10 A.M. [CT]

For sale: rough-scaled sand boas; smooth-scaled sand boas; javelin sand boas from a normal male and a black & gray female; bearded dragons. All c.b. from c.b. adults. Scott, (630) 483-7670.

For sale: Brazilian rainbow boas, c.b. 9/99 from beautiful red parents w/ orange half-moons, \$125 each; Mexican rosy boas, cream w/ brown striping, \$50 each; Macklot's pythons, pair of flawless hatchlings, \$175/pair; black & white banded Cal. kings, \$25–35. Mark, Strictly Serpents, (847) 854-3259.

For sale: Send SASE to CRC, P.O. Box 0731, Las Vegas NV 89125-0731 for brochures and list of species available. Limited bookings available for guided tours of herpetological collection sites in Nevada. Call/fax (702) 450-0065. URL <http://www.herp.com/crc/> E-mail: crcsafetie@aol.com.

Tours: Adventure tours to Madagascar! Join **Bill Love** seeing and photographing fauna and flora, heavily herp-biased, across the world's least known mini-continent. Maximum fun & photo ops assured on every trip. Contact him at: BLUE CHAMELEON VENTURES, P.O. Box 643, Alva FL 33920. TEL: (941) 728-2390, FAX: (941) 728-3276, E-mail: blove@cyberstreet.com.

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Wanted: I am interested in acquiring information on egg sizes of lizards and turtles/tortoises—especially herbivores. If you have measurements of female body size (SVL; TL, or mass before or after parturition), length and width, or mass of eggs at the time of deposition, or body masses of hatchlings, I would appreciate very much hearing from you. Robert Espinoza, Dept. of Biology, MS 314, Univ. Nevada, Reno, NV 89557, E-mail: espin_r@unr.edu.

Wanted: big-headed turtles; mata mata turtles; Mexican giant mud turtles (*Staurotypus triporcatus*); exceptionally large common snappers (45 lbs. & up); large alligator snappers (over 90 lbs.); spectacled caiman from Trinidad, Tobago and Surinam; dwarf caiman; smooth-fronted caiman; albino turtles (except red-eared sliders). Walt Loose, (610) 926-6028, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. or after 11:30 P.M. Eastern Time.

Visit the CHS Website at <http://www.chicagoherp.org>

It's where to find:

- Herpetological headlines
- Herps of Illinois, with photos
- Information on ReptileFest 2000
- Information on CHS Herpetological Grants
- Calendar of events
- Society information (membership, bylaws, back issues of the *Bulletin*)
- Contact information for board members and committees
- Book reviews
- Photos
- Links to other herp sites

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — \$2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (773) 588-0728 evening telephone, (312) 782-2868 fax, E-mail: <MADadder0@aol.com>.

HERP-ACROSTIC #17 by Mike Dloogatch

1	N	2	B	3	A		4	R	5	K	6	T	7	U	8	P	9	A		10	M	11	R	12	N	13	D		14	N		15	G	16	J	17	E	18	S		19	H	20	O		
	21	W		22	W	23	L	24	J	25	M		26	U	27	A	28	K	29	D	30	O		31	H	32	Q	33	N	34	I	35	O		36	Q	37	P	38	L		39	D			
40	N	41	M	42	U	43	L	44	T	45	B	46	S	47	A	48	Q	49	O	50	G		51	C	52	K	53	O	54	G	55	F		56	O	57	R	58	N		59	U	60	T		
61	E	62	W		63	J	64	S	65	F		66	D	67	O	68	F	69	P	70	T	71	N	72	H	73	I	74	E		75	C	76	K		77	Q	78	L	79	A	80	R	81	O	
82	M	83	N	84	F	85	U		86	J	87	R	88	B		89	O	90	G	91	D	92	N		93	H	94	L		95	V	96	K	97	W	98	E	99	O		100	R	101	A		
	102	U	103	M	104	F		105	H	106	M	107	I	108	J	109	C	110	T	111	N	112	E	113	D	114	R		115	O	116	S	117	F	118	D		119	M	120	V	121	W	122	P	
123	O		124	H	125	B	126	T	127	U	128	L		129	N	130	W	131	R	132	G		133	F	134	R		135	A	136	D	137	C	138	I	139	B	140	F		141	S	142	D		
143	B	144	F	145	R	146	M	147	N	148	Q	149	G	150	E		151	H	152	T	153	J	154	K	155	N		156	U	157	O	158	M	159	I		160	H	161	L	162	K	163	V		
164	L	165	P	166	A	167	N		168	C	169	W	170	R	171	O	172	J	173	L	174	J	175	G		176	R	177	Q	178	S		179	W	180	A	181	M	182	E	183	P	184	G	185	D
	186	N	187	H	188	D	189	F		190	I	191	L		192	B	193	K	194	O	195	U	196	R	197	N	198	J	199	T	200	V														

How to solve this puzzle: The diagram, when filled in, will contain a quotation from a published work on herpetology. The numbered squares in the diagram correspond to the numbered blanks under the WORDS. The letter at the upper right of each square indicates the WORD containing the letter to be entered in that square. The WORDS form an acrostic: taking the first letter of each in order spells out the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

CLUES	WORDS		
A. Greek playwright said to have died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his bald head.	47 166 135 79 27 101 3 180 9	M. “Here I Go Again” band.	119 10 181 103 146 41 82 106 25 158
B. Author in 1854 of the type description of the Sonoran mud turtle (last name only).	2 45 192 139 125 143 88	N. _____ Systems: company founded by Philippe de Vosjoli (two words).	147 186 12 14 167 71 92 58 197 83 33 1 155 40 111 129
C. Pertaining to running-water habitats.	137 51 75 109 168	O. <i>Who will run</i> _____?: 1995 novel by Lorrie Moore (three words).	171 30 99 20 123 115 81 157 53 35 194 67 89 56 49
D. “America’s greatest herpetologist,” according to Kraig Adler (full name and middle initial).	136 39 188 113 118 185 66 29 142 91 13	P. Exhausted; spent; worn out.	165 37 69 122 183 8
E. Reticulated.	17 182 74 112 61 98 150	Q. _____ snake.	77 32 148 48 36 177
F. Author of <i>The Snakes of South Africa: Their Venoms and the Treatment of Snake Bite</i> (last name only).	68 144 65 84 104 133 140 117 189 55	R. In Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood, a rival gang to the Maniac Latin Disciples (two words).	131 170 176 57 196 134 87 145 80 100 114 11 4
G. Editor in the early 1900s of a multivolume <i>Library of Natural History</i> , illustrated with 2,000 engravings (last name only).	149 90 175 50 15 132 184 54	S. Assented, in a way.	141 64 116 18 46 178
H. Like snakes of the genus <i>Dasypeltis</i> .	187 19 105 160 151 31 93 72 124	T. An object showing human workmanship.	126 44 60 70 152 6 110 199
I. Any marine turtle of the genus <i>Lepidochelys</i> .	107 190 138 73 34 159	U. Any of several gulls of the genus <i>Rissa</i> .	127 59 156 195 102 26 42 7 85
J. Haffkine _____: Bombay, India, antivenom producer.	198 63 24 108 16 153 172 86 174	V. A young hawk taken from the nest for the purpose of training.	163 200 120 95
K. Paleozoic period from which the earliest fossil Amphibia originate.	52 154 162 76 96 28 193 5	W. Taxon comprising the Iguania and the Scleroglossa in the phylogenetic classification of the Reptilia.	62 179 130 21 22 97 121 169
L. Author of <i>Gray’s Monitor Lizard</i> (last name only).	161 23 94 38 128 191 164 78 173 43		

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 28, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Cannon Drive and Fullerton Parkway, in Chicago. This will be our popular and always well-attended annual Show & Tell meeting. Bring an animal that you find interesting for one reason or another and be prepared to give a short (under five minutes) presentation to the group. Don't be shy. Age (yours) or commonness (the animal's) should not be a limitation. Guidelines for the occasion: don't bring venomous reptiles or endangered species, and please bring only amphibians or reptiles (this means no worms, tarantulas or other invertebrates).

The speaker at the July 26 meeting will be **Bill McMahon**, Curator of Reptiles at the Louisville Zoo. His topic will be conservation projects for the Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*).

The Chicago Turtle Club

In place of the usual meeting of the Chicago Turtle Club on Sunday, June 25, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M., the group will tour The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, Illinois. For more info call Lisa Koester, (773) 508-0034 or visit the CTC website: <http://www.geocities.com/~chicagoturtle>.

NEW MEETING SITE

The regular monthly meetings of the Chicago Herpetological Society now take place at Chicago's newest museum — the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**. This beautiful new building is at Fullerton Parkway and Cannon Drive, directly across Fullerton from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Meeting dates will continue to be the last Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and last until 9:30 P.M. Free parking is available on Cannon Drive and also across Fullerton in the Lincoln Park Zoo lots. A plethora of CTA buses stop within easy walking distance.

LATE ARRIVING BULLETINS

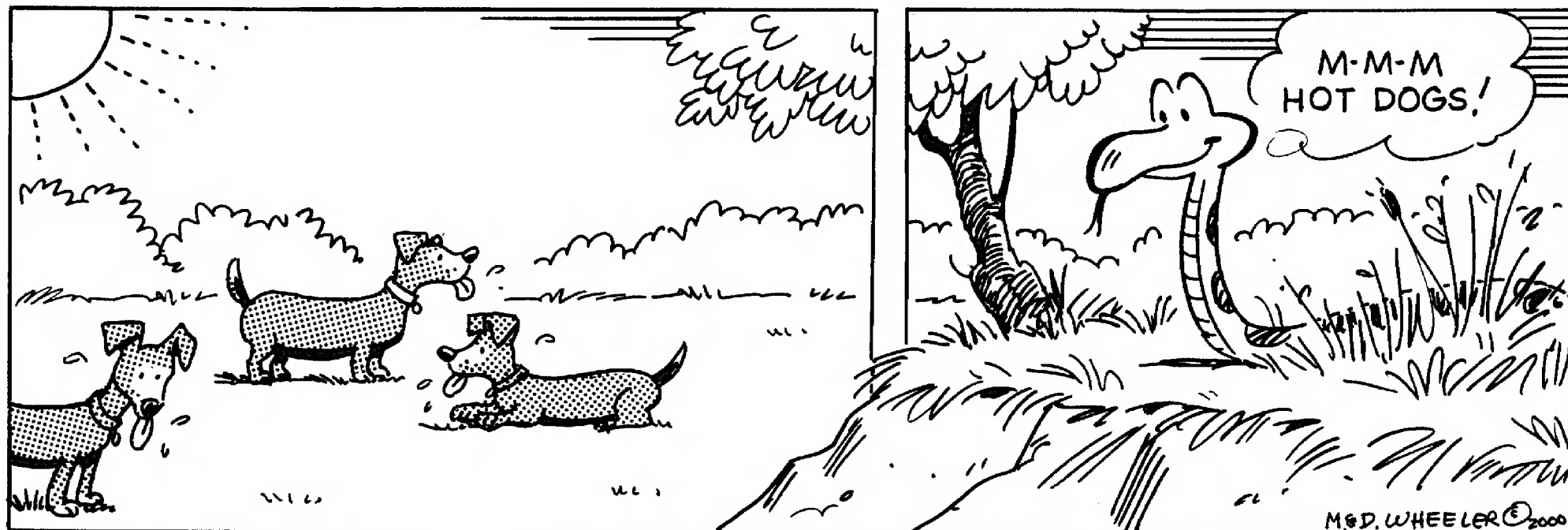
Many of you have noticed and commented that the *Bulletin* has been arriving later than usual the past few months. This is because the bulk mailing is no longer being managed by our printer, but instead is being sent out to a mailing service. This adds a week or more to the process and the end result is that your *Bulletin* arrives after the date of the monthly meeting. We are working to correct this by moving up the printing deadline. Meanwhile, if you do not get the *Bulletin* in time, please note that we announce the following month's speaker as well on the inside back cover of the *Bulletin*. Also, you can check our website, www.chicagoherp.org, or call our phone message, (773) 281-1800, for this information. And please keep in mind that the meeting night is always the last Wednesday of the month.

DONATIONS TO THE APRIL 26 RAFFLE

The following is a listing of those businesses and individuals who generously donated items for our monthly raffle at the April 26 meeting. The donated items are shown in parentheses.

Super Pet (Hanging Gardens cage decor / rock pool cover); **Top Hat Cricket Farm** (cricket food); **Tetra Terra fauna** (Vitalife supplement); **Rep-Cal** (bearded dragon food); **Hagen** (OrnamentAlls rock shelter / Rept-o-meter hygrometer); **Ghann's Cricket Farm** (cricket gift certificates); **ZooMed** (iguana food); **Reptile Emporium** (InsectNside candy / Larvets Worm Snax); **Absorption Corp.** (Carefresh pet bedding); **Sally Hajek** (color herp prints); **Dr. Gunther and Elke Kohler** (book—*Reptilien und Amphibien Mittelamerikas*); **Mike Redmer** (book—*Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois*); **Mark Dieterich** (herp book); **Don Wheeler** (herp artwork); **Gary Fogel** (lizard squeaky toy); **Rich Crowley**—CHS adoptions (heat rock); **CHS** (herp T-shirts).

THE ADVENTURES OF SPOT



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